

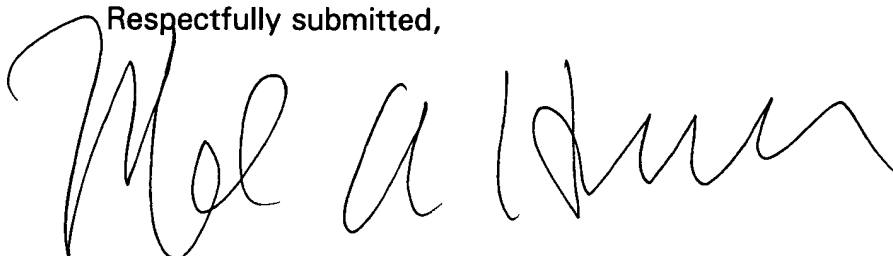
REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated 13 August 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC Section 102(e) as being anticipated by *Walker et al.*, USPN 5,884,270. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 and 2 and submits new claim 3 in order to distinguish over the *Walker et al.* prior art reference.

While *Walker et al.* does teach the data processing implemented release of confidential information, it does not teach essential elements of the present invention which are recited in Claim 3. In accordance with element (c) of Claim 3, a price rule is associated with particular data records of information which is maintained in at least one data warehouse of a trusted server. This price rule establishes a cost of accessing particular data records. Furthermore, it is the price rule which controls access to that data. In accordance with element (d), the price rule enables a data owner to specify a different price for different types and amounts of information access. The trusted server provides a data processing platform. This platform is accessible to multiple third-party data processing software programs. These programs operate as software agents. In accordance with element (f), a plurality of seller-side software agents have defined relationships to the price rules and associated data records. These plurality of seller-side software agents maintain absolute access control to the data records. In accordance with element (g), a plurality of buyer-side software agents have regulated query access to the data processing platform. They may request pricing information from the seller-side software agents. Collectively, the seller-side software agents and the buyer-side software agents operate as persistent data processing systems which interact with one another repeatedly over time and which thus define a virtual marketplace. See element (h). None of these features are taught or suggested by the *Walker et al.* reference relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance for Claim 3.

A request for a three month extension of time and a check in the amount of \$475.00 is enclosed herewith. If any additional fees are required please charge that fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1060.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel A Hunn", written over a horizontal line.

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